



# GOOD NEWS FROM CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

October 2017

## Pastor's Pen



### Victory in Christ

*The Lord brought about a great victory... 2 Samuel 23:10*

It is always a big deal when a new pastor comes to a church. It is also a big deal when a pastor leaves. It is easy to see his arrival as a victory, and his departure as a defeat. I do not believe that is the case, because in all things God has given us victory in Christ.

In the swirl of questions and doubts (and even misinformation) there are messages of gloom and failure and "who can show us any good" (ala Psalm 4:6). Let me clearly state what are not the reasons for my departure. I did not leave because COS is a bad church, or because I threw up my hands in frustration, or because I was fired or pushed out. As the Lord calls my family and I on to our next chapter in the Wisconsin Synod, and I look to a new chapter of ministry, possibly even starting a PhD program, I felt like I was able to leave with a good conscience because God has blessed COS in many ways. In fact, my time here has been a time of joy and victory in Christ, and COS has shared in this victory. Let me count some of the ways I've seen Christ victorious at COS.

The Word of God was preached and taught in truth and purity. And, the Word of God did not return empty. I saw sinners (and that includes all of us) repent, turn their lives around, and grow in the knowledge of Christ and in love for one another. I saw people confess faith in Jesus, become God's children through the waters of baptism, and become disciples of Jesus. One of the biggest victories I saw was God given unity. God granted us a stronger unity in faith. There was unity around God's word as we sat at the Lord's feet, and as we took the Lord up on his invitation to taste and see that the Lord is good. There was growing unity in the mission of making disciples. And there was unity achieved in the body of Christ as hurts were healed and as we encouraged one another in the faith.

Christ centered unity in the church is vital. An old Chinese proverb says, "Where there is unity there is victory." Likewise, Jesus says, "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:25). Therefore, with the help and power of the Holy Spirit, strive to live together in unity. Not a false unity that pretends sin and problems don't exist. Rather, let it be a true unity that only comes from Christ as we submit to His word. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) dwell in unity, says Psalm 133:1.

*Continues on page 2*

### Sunday Morning Schedule

**9:15 AM Worship**

**10:30 AM Children's**

**Sunday School**

**10:45 AM Adult Bible Study**

Rev. George Hamilton

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John Panning

Pastor Emeritus

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Strive, then, as scripture encourages us "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3). Peter, in his epistle, reiterates the same thing saying, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing (1 Peter 3:8-9).

Another victory God gave us was unity in prayer. We bowed heads together. We waited expectantly on the Lord. We reaped the joy of answered prayers. Continue, then, to pray expectantly, and wait patiently on Him. We've learned that God is good and loves to hear our prayers. Theologian A.W. Tozer writes, "The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray." Therefore, do not cease to be a praying congregation.

I would be remiss if I failed to warn you that the church is living in perilous times, and there are wolves who will tear apart the flock if they are able. This is nothing new. Even Paul warned the Ephesians church saying, "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29). Watch out for those who cause division, those who tell lies and whisper behind backs, and those who reject the word of God. These are not the fruit of the spirit (these are boldly displayed in the sanctuary so I don't need to restate them here). As Scripture tells us in Titus 3:10-11, "As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."

Finally, please allow me to encourage, entice, or urge (which ever you need) those of you who are thinking about pulling the escape hatch and leaving COS at this time. Whether because of uncertainty or disappointment, it is tempting during times of transition to look for greener lawns, fairer pastures, or better equipped campgrounds. You have a church home, and your church home needs you. You have been blessed and fed and discipled at COS. Now is the time for you to bless, feed, and disciple others. Support and encourage one another, especially your elders and church council as they support you. Just as you have needed your church home, your church home needs you now. Later, you will look back and joyfully see that striving for a little while together with your church family through both thick and thin is a great blessing with lasting impact.

Thank you COS for calling me to be your pastor, even for this short season. Your love, and encouragement, and faithfulness, and joy in the Lord has left a deep mark on me and my family. As we turn the page, the COS chapter will be remembered with joy. I was blessed and privileged to be your pastor. Thank you for giving me that opportunity. You will continue to be a blessing to each other and to your next pastor.

My own words are so feeble, but God's words are powerful. Therefore, as both my prayer and parting blessing to you, I share the words of God from Philipians 3:14-21.

*I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Yours for Christ and His Kingdom,

Pastor Stephen Wiesenuer

P.S. Keep in touch. Our contact information is included in the newsletter.



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## WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

“Worship for Shut-Ins” is a Lutheran television 30 minute worship service. It includes the Propers for the day, prayers, and a LCMS pastor delivering a message that is one-on-one to the viewer. Also included are up to four choir selections. There are no commercials or repeats. It is shown at 11:30 A.M. on local cable channel 54 or Xfinity channel 21. This may also be viewed on our website: [www.cosholland.com](http://www.cosholland.com) by going to the “Sermons & Media” section.



### MISSION-GIVING UPDATE

(including “Local Benevolences”)

We joyfully respond to a resolution of the congregation passed several years ago that 10% of all “General Fund” offerings would be designated for “Missions.” That percentage, then, is divided into two parts; so that 7% of the total “General Fund” offerings go for mission-work through our District and Synod, and 3% of the total is given for “Local Benevolences.” Recently our Elders have distributed the Local Benevolence portions for September as follows: One half each to:

Forgotten Man Ministries

Holland Free Health

### CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS:

President— Mark Johnson

V. President—Rob Shinsky

Financial Sec.—Derk Teusink

Treasurer—Philip Matro

Secretary—Sue Johnson

Education—Jane Martinsen

Stewardship—Ann Campbell

Head Elder-Spiritual Welfare—  
Bruce Campbell

Ministries —John Olson

Evangelism—Pat VanSlooten

Head Trustee—Rick Elushik

Missions—John Klug

Additional Elders: Art Fenrich, Tom  
Nunheimer, Brian Scheiderer

Additional Trustees: John Bareman,  
Ray Crockford, Ken Reimink

### CHURCH WORKERS:

Admin. Assistant—Whitney Kesler

Custodian—Pat VanSlooten

Youth Director—Carol Garnsey

## Fall Voter's Meeting Announcement

Christ Our Savior's fall voter's meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 5, 2017 at 10:30am.

Agenda items include:

- Financial Review of year to date 2017
- Review, and approval of 2018 Budget
- Discussion of pastoral options

Attendance by all members of Christ Our Savior is highly recommended, as your input on our direction is both welcomed and needed as we move forward. If you have any agenda items you would like added please contact Mark Johnson, Council President, or an Elder.



September 27, 2017

### Vacancy Update

During the past few weeks the Elders and Council have met, and discussed our initial plans for the interim. Pastor George Hamilton will provide some leadership for administrative duties, and teaching. Others within the congregation have stepped in to assist with visits to the shut-ins, teaching, etc. Sunday services will be covered with a number of pastors.

At this time communication is beginning with our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Goers from St Matthew in Spring Lake, and the Michigan District to seek their assistance in charting our course.

As always, if there are any questions or comments you would like to share please feel free to contact myself, or Bruce Campbell, Head Elder.

In His Service,  
Mark Johnson

## NEW FIVE WEEK BIBLE CLASS SERIES

"500: Impact of the Reformation Today - Biblical Foundations" will be our subject of study for Sunday Bible Study. Join the group in the Prayer Room for some new insights from the Reformation. Many ideas from the Reformation have been planted in our life patterns for today, but we may not recognize the source and the value they bring. Too often we look back to the Reformation and see it as "old history." The point of this brief study is to discover the impact of Reformation ideas on how we live. We will look at Bible truths which were recharged with energy at that time. Those truths still have that energy for us today. Series start is October 1 at 10:45.

Thanks

Pastor George



500th Anniversary Worship Service  
October 15, 2017 | Breslin Center - East Lansing, Mich.  
[herewestand.michlgandistrict.org](http://herewestand.michlgandistrict.org)

*We are asking for signs of meaningful scripture (Biblical truths) to place on the door that Jeff made for the Reformation celebration being held at the Breslin Center in Lansing October 15. Email Diana Mavis or drop off in church office by October 8. [dmavis@charter.net](mailto:dmavis@charter.net) Diana will distribute phone numbers and contact information for ticket holders to arrange carpools.*

**Dear Instrumentalists,**  
October is Reformation month as we celebrate our 500th year.



We will have practices at 11 AM on Saturday October 14 and 21.

We will play LORD willing on October 22 for the worship service. (Be ready to play at 9 AM, last quick practice).

If you can't come to the practices, please let me know and I'll copy some music so you can practice at home.

Please reply to this email that you intend to play in the COS orchestra group. I need to know to have a chair and stands ready for each person.

Thanks for helping out, hope to have some fun too.

In His Service,  
Bruce

## 2017 Trendway Cruise-in completed

We at COS have been so blessed to have such a wonderful family to support this worthy community event to help Kim Masterton. After her husband Dan succumbed to his battle with cancer she has been left with a tremendous amount of bills.

This year was one of the best with perfect weather, over 500 vehicles, 3,000+ people and raising over \$35,000. Kim was overwhelmed at the amount of people that came out to support her and help her through these difficult times.

We had one of the busiest nights ever, and as fast as the two grill guys could get the food to us we served it all to the very last hot dog.

A huge thank you to ALL who helped with set up, serving food, clean up, prayed, and gave your God-given talent to serve others.

A heartfelt thank you from, Thrivent Financial, Tom Nunheimer, Terry Reimink, Sandy Brunmeier and the Trendway team.



### LWML recycling fund raiser

Get Ready, set, recycle! Your LWML is collecting empty inkjet printer cartridges, empty laser printer cartridges used cell phones, PDAs Palm Pilots, i-Pods, MP3 Players, laptops, notebooks, eReaders, tablets, & iPads (include power cords) to redeem for cash. The cash will be used to pay for expenses associated with hosting the LWML's National Convention to be held in Lexington, KY in 2021. Just bring your contributions to COS and put them in the recycling bin. It's easy and it's good for the environment also. Questions about what we can recycle? Check out the poster in the sanctuary or call Esther Klug at 269-561-2925. Your LWML thanks you!



### Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to all the donations. The board in the sanctuary has a few items we could still use if you still wanted to make a donation. October is photo and letter month. I have some ideas for that by the board as well. We will be planning a date in October to start getting this ready for drop off in November.

#### To all Thrivent members,

If you are eligible to collect Thrivent Choice dollars please check your account. Be sure to transfer these dollars to an organization of your choice. Any questions please talk to Terry Reimink.

Thank You.

## Elder's Note

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends of COS Lutheran Church,

As we move into a new chapter in our church life, let us take time to reflect on our journey. The wisest of Kings, Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1 "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven." The experience of losing a relationship with our former Pastor Stephen Wiesenauer has come to an end. The emotions of anger, disappointment, sadness, make change difficult. However, Jesus Christ has promised that we are overcomers. I John 5:4-5 "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. ... the victory (is) our faith. ... (we) believe that Jesus is the Son of God." We remain a congregation as a Lutheran Church in the Missouri Synod. We continue to have worship services, Bible studies, Sunday School, music, fellowship, prayers, and committed volunteers, with generous and friendly people. Count our blessings.

In this new beginning, recall these words of President Kennedy, "Ask not what your country (church) can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country (church)." And Thomas Paine's call to action, "Now is the time for every good man (person) to come to the aid of their country (church)." Simply put we need four elders, one trustee and twenty people as a visitation team for our sick and home bound.

Mark Johnson is our Council President presiding over church business, and I continue to lead as Head Elder over spiritual welfare. We will endeavor to be transparent with information via e-mail, letter, bulletin, newsletter or announcements. We are working with our Circuit Visitor Reverend Michael Goers, who has contacted our Michigan District Staff. We intend to have supply clergy for services, until we decide on our next moves together. Any questions or concerns please call or email either Mark or me. Please pray for your elected leaders, for unity, COS's future, for God's direction, Holy Spirit wisdom and guidance. May I suggest Hebrews Chapter 13 for good counsel and application for our lives.

In His Service for His purpose,

Bruce Campbell, Head Elder



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*Proclaim God's Kingdom  
Grow Disciples  
Love One Another*